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Mu'amma al QADHAFI - BF(Libya)

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CIA and State requesters. Copies may
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E.O. 12065; XDS-1 DECEMBER 11, 1989 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM L.) OR-M

TAGS: PERP, PINS, LY, US, XF

SUBJECT: (S) QADHAFI OFF THE RECORD

1. (S- ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. YOUSSEF IBRAHIM OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, WHO INTERVIEWED QADHAFI
EARLY DECEMBER 10, HAS SHARED WITH US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE SOME OF TH
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REMARKS MADE BY QADHAFI AFTER THE RECORDING MACHINES WERE TURNED OFF.
AS AN ARAB (EGYPTIAN)-AMERICAN, IBRAHIM DEVELOPED AN EXCELLENT RAPPOR
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WITH QADHAFI, WHO HE FOUND "IMPRESSIVE." INDISCRETIONS WERE THE RESU
LT.

3. ON THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. QADHAFI TOLD IBRAHIM HE HAD "NO INTENTIO
N"
OF PAYING FOR ANY OF THE DAMAGES. HE ASKED IBRAHIM HOW BAD THE DAMAG
ES
WERE AND WAS TOLD "PRETTY BAD." (WE HAD TAKEN IBRAHIM ON A TOUR OF
THE EMBASSY.) IN REPLY TO QADHAFI'S QUESTION, IBRAHIM ESTIMATED THE
COST OF THE DAMAGE AT \$200,000 (THIS MAY BE A BIT -- BUT NOT MUCH - L
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GADHAFI SAID: "THE AMERICANS HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY, THEY CAN AFFORD IT."

4. ON IRAN AND QOTBZADEH. BECAUSE OF IBRAHIM'S BACKGROUND ON IRAN (FROM WHICH HE WAS EXPELLED) GADHAFI SPENT A HALF-HOUR ASKING QUESTIONS IN WHICH HE REVEALED HIS OWN CONFUSION ABOUT VARIOUS Factions AND PERSONALITIES. GADHAFI WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY QOTBZADEH'S LACK OF GRATITUDE. HE PERSONALLY HAD GIVEN QOTBZADEH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. THEN QOTBZADEH HAD TURNED AGAINST LIBYA (BECAUSE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE LEBANESE IMAM MUSA AL-SADR). HE ASKED WHETHER IBRAHIM COULD EXPOSE QOTBZADEH'S TREACHERY. IBRAHIM ASKED WHETHER HE COULD QUOTE GADHAFI AND WAS TOLD "NO." HE THEN ASKED IF GADHAFI HAD RECEIPTS. REPLY: "THERE WERE NO RECEIPTS, THESE WERE REVOLUTIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS." GADHAFI ALSO MADE SOME REMARKS TO THE EFFECT THAT KHOMEINI WAS OLD AND OUT OF TOUCH. (COMMENT: AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAS BEEN NO FORWARD MOVEMENT ON ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND IRAN EVEN THOUGH LIBYA IS PERHAPS IRAN'S MOST UNCONDITIONAL AND OUTSPOKEN ALLY.)

5. ON SADAT. GADHAFI SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT SADAT'S DAYS WERE NUMBERED. NEVERTHELESS, HE WANTED IBRAHIM'S OPINION AND QUERIED HIM ON THE VIEW OF MUSTAFA AMIN AND HAYKAL (BOTH OF WHOM WOULD LIKE TO SEE SADAT OUT BUT DO NOT HAVE TIMETABLE.)

6. SAUDIS. GADHAFI MADE SEVERAL CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT KING KHALID AND OTHERS IN THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP.

7. ON THE U.S. AND ARAB-AMERICANS. GADHAFI DISPLAYED HIS USUAL FASCINATION WITH AMERICA (AS WELL AS ANGER AT U.S. POLICIES). HE PARTICULARLY WANTED TO KNOW HOW LIFE WAS FOR PERSONS OF ARAB ORIGIN AND WONDERED WHY HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ENTICE ARAB-AMERICANS TO COME TO WORK IN LIBYA.

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IBRAHIM REPLIED THAT NO ONE WHO HAD LIVED IN AMERICA WANTED
TO RETURN TO ARAB BUREAUCRACY AND STAGNATION. FURTHERMORE, IN AMERIC
A
HE WAS FREE TO WRITE WHATEVER HE WANTED.

8. IN YOUSSEF IBRAHIM'S PRESENCE QADHAFI ORDERED PRESS COUNSELOR
IBRAHIM JAAD TO SEND A FAVORABLE REPLY TO BARBRA WALTERS' REQUESTS TO
INTERVIEW THE
COLONEL.
EAGLETON

END OF MESSAGE

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